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Approved For Release 2003/04/23 : CIA-RDP90-00509R000100030028-4

11 April 1978

NOTE

TO: Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking

SUBJECT: OSCOL Working Group

1. This note is to update you on progress in formation of an OSCOL working group, the work program of which you approved on 17 March 1978.

25X1A 2. [ ] is working on this project. He has conducted an initial round of discussions with persons involved in open source collection activities, among them [ ] who did the LITINT study and [ ] Chairman of the Interagency Maps and Publications Acquisitions Committee. During those discussions the various OSCOL problems and issues appeared to separate themselves into four groups: Managerial Planning; Collection; Systemic Issues; and OSCOL Exploitation. [ ] is convinced that the best way to proceed in this matter would be to form an action task force for each of the four sets of issues; the four task force chairmen and [ ] would comprise the working group. 25X1A

25X1A 3. The search is now on for candidates to head up the four task forces. To that end [ ] has discussed the attached paper in detail with [ ] the NIO for Special Projects; [ ] Chief of the NFAC Requirements and Evaluation Staff; [ ] (RMS), Chairman, DCI Task Force on Linguistic Problems; [ ] RMS/OPBD; [ ] RMS/IHD; and others. On Wednesday (April 12th) he will meet with Dr. William Dodge, Library of Congress, Foreign Research Division, and on Thursday with selected Department of State personnel. [ ] would meet also with [ ] AF/FTD; and others before recommending four persons to head up the task force. 25X1A 25X1A 25X1A 25X1A

25X1A 4. Tentatively, [ ] (NFAC/RES) would appear a good choice to chair the Exploitation Task Force, and is considering that possibility. [ ] appears widely respected as an authority on both collection and systemic issues, should he be available. 25X1A

5. I will keep you informed of further developments.

[ ] 25X1A

Attachment  
As stated

[ ] 25X1

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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
Human Resources Committee

HRC-C-78-032  
6 April 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: (Potential Task Force Chairmen or Members)  
SUBJECT: OSCOL Working Group

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1. (C) As recommended by the Human Resources Committee, the D/DCI/CT has approved formation of an ad-hoc working group to examine a number of questions and issues relating to open source collection. In the process, the working group is to focus on literature intelligence in particular, and expand on the work recently done in that field by an independent contractor, [redacted]. A copy of the [redacted] study is Attachment C hereto. The undersigned has been designated to coordinate the activities of the working group, under the supervision of Chairman, Human Resources Committee.

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2. (C) The working group's purpose is to improve interaction between those who collect and process open source information, and the users of the product, relative to on-going collection, production and analytical objectives. Most of the problems, issues and opportunities in open source collection have been around for awhile, and require less definition than assistance toward positive action. Where command decisions appear to be needed the working group will attempt to bring about those decisions. Where a community effort appears called for, the working group will staff the matter for consideration by the Human Resources Committee, or appropriate other elements. Some matters may require intensive research of a kind best conducted by an outside contractor.

3. (C) The open source collection arena is large, and the opportunities for improvement are very diverse. It would be easy for the working group to become mired in detail very quickly. To prevent that, it is planned that the working group will remain small and highly flexible. Each member of the working group will

chair a task force, the composition of which will evolve as different issues are examined. The undersigned will provide the necessary coordination and staff work, and report regularly to Chairman, HRC. At appropriate intervals the latter will report to HRC members and to the D/DCI/CT about progress and recommendations. In due course the Chairman, HRC will propose an appropriate mechanism or structure within the Human Resources Committee to ensure that open source collection activities receive a full measure of representation and attention in the committee.

4. (C) Attachment A hereto shows how the working group will be structured functionally. Attachment B is a listing of some questions and issues that may be appropriate for initial working group attention. I would appreciate your views on the latter and any suggestions you wish to make concerning other problem areas that should be given attention. Attachment C is the recently completed  Study. Please examine these attachments and advise whether you would be interested in participating in this activity as a general consultant, a working group member, or as a member of one of the task forces. I also invite you to recommend others who could serve well in one of these three capacities.

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Phone:

Attachments:  
As stated

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# WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND CONSULTANTS

## A. OSCOL WORKING GROUP

Coordinator:  HRC Staff Representative

Member: Chairman, OSCOL Planning Task Force

- How much OSCOL reporting is enough?
- Should OSCOL be administered centrally as a distinct intelligence discipline?
- Bring contractual services inside?
- Cost effectiveness issue

Member: Chairman, Collection Issues Task Force

- How much OSCOL reporting is presently available?
- Are there collection gaps?
- Improve support to S&T production?
- Overseas staffing and tasking for IMPAC activities.
- Mutual-assistance channels to non-intelligence departments and agencies.

Member: Chairman, Systemic Issues Task Force

- Machine versus human and machine-aided translation
- Raw data versus data reduction
- Are there undesirable redundancies in processing, storing and retrieval procedures?

Member: Chairman, OSCOL Exploitation Task Force

- Is OSCOL underexploited?
- Producer-user interface problems
- "Release to the public" proposal

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#### INITIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

1. Questions concerning the role that OSCOL should play in all-source collection.
  - a. How much open source collection/reporting is enough? Like all collection methods, the ability of open source collection to generate foreign information is determined largely by the availability of resources. But in the all-source mix, how much of the kind of information product that OSCOL produces, is required for effective and efficient production of national intelligence products. The answer to this question will bear significantly on several other questions discussed below. The "production community" perspective on this will be essential.
  - b. Should the various aspects of open source collection (literature intelligence; wire service monitoring and broadcast information publications; media analysis; foreign press digests; maps and foreign publications procurement; publications research and library services; translation and data base support; shared foreign information holdings of non-intelligence departments and agencies; etc.) be recognized as a distinct intelligence discipline, and compete for NFIP resources as a consolidated decision unit? Certain aspects of open source collection already are centrally managed (cite: FBIS and the Central Information Reference and Control ((CIRC)) service of common concern that AF/FTD administers for the DoD), whereas others such as exploitation of open literature for S&T intelligence purposes possibly could benefit from more centralized management.
  - c. Should translation and other support services inherent in open source collection/reporting, which now are frequently contracted out to non-intelligence entities, be "brought inside" the Intelligence Community and be centrally managed? Alternatively, could we realize resource efficiencies and improved overall effectiveness by centralizing only the planning for - and management of - support services, many of which could continue to be performed outside the Intelligence Community?

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- d. At present, no means exist to audit overall NFIP open source collection costs, as they are not specifically identified in departmental accounting systems. What changes in the present arrangement might be feasible to enable manpower and funds devoted to open source collection to be tallied for cost effectiveness deliberations? On this we will need assistance from RMS/OPBD.

The working group will probe these questions with the various interested parties and then draft options and recommendations for higher consideration.

## 2. Collection

- a. In line with the above question about how much open source collection/reporting is enough, the working group must establish how much foreign information open source collectors presently are making available to production analysts, and whether it is in a form that is immediately usable to them.
- b. Are there topical or geographical gaps in open source collection tasking and reporting? The working group will critique present open source collection targets and objectives, in terms of both intended primary customers and national intelligence requirements, as a basis for possible future recommendations.
- c. What would have to be done, and at what decision levels, to facilitate increased open source collection/reporting support to S&T intelligence production? On this the working group will work closely with STIC and departmental elements which are already addressing this question.
- d. Is the Community map and publications acquisition effort at an appropriate level of overseas staffing and tasking in terms of its relative contribution to national intelligence products?
- e. To what extent are the unclassified foreign information holdings of non-intelligence departments and agencies presently available to, and being utilized by, Community intelligence production offices? Is Intelligence Community open source information supporting the foreign information needs of non-intelligence departments and agencies to its full potential?

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The working group will explore these questions with the parties concerned, facilitate improvements where that is feasible, and formulate recommendations for appropriate higher consideration.

3. Systemic problems and issues. It should be feasible to display for critical examination the existing open source collection/reporting processes, both departmental and inter-agency, so that systemic issues can be clearly understood, addressed and moved toward decision. Reportedly in "literature intelligence" alone there are some 57 government activities and 750 contractor/translators, which are experiencing "producer/user interface problems" and debates over "machine versus human-plus-machine-aided translation" and "raw data versus data reduction" issues. Gathering the factual information, especially cost projections, necessary to move these controversies to decision almost certainly is beyond the capabilities of the working group at this initial stage. The working group can, however, establish what decisions must be made and at what level they probably will have to be made, and what departmental equities are involved. Depending on the availability of funds, it may be practical to contract out some of the essential fact finding. The first question in any event is whether there are undesirable redundancies in present procedures for processing, storing and retrieving open source information, and if so what must be done to correct that situation. The working group will give those questions a full measure of attention.
4. Exploitation of open source reporting. The  investigator concluded that the information product of open source collection, in particular foreign literature, is not being exploited by intelligence producers to its full potential. The working group will expand the dialogue on this subject and if it appears to have validity, examine the underlying explanations. For starters, we would want to determine whether the problem lay primarily in the "production community" or in the "collection community". Other questions worth considering: Is more open source information being accessioned to intelligence analysts than can be used in those national intelligence products which meaningfully employ open source material? Does the problem lie in the accessioned material not being adequately "gisted" for easy scan-search by analysts? Is the open source information just not getting to the production offices in an organized and efficient way, so that use opportunities are lost? Would centralized screening, selection, "gisting", storage and retrieval of open source material,

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if that were feasible, measurably improve exploitation of the OSCOL product? Both NFAC and departmental collector assistance will be needed to answer these questions, and procedural solutions should be feasible.

The DCI has evinced an interest in putting into the public domain material which is not classified but which will contribute to public understanding of key policy issues. It has been suggested that this objective could be served in some instances by releasing to the public selected items of literature intelligence which was produced to support the production of all-source intelligence. The working group will examine the pros and cons of this suggestion and others aimed at getting more productive mileage out of our national open source reporting product.

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25X1A

Technical Report No. 51

A Survey of Literature Intelligence  
(LITINT) Resources and  
Operations (U)

by



25X1A

15 February 1978

\*Copies of this document are available upon request.

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# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

OSCOL Working Group

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

11 April 1978

25X1A

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking

MA C

2. EXEC

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3. D/Hum. int

EV

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